

Workforce News



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Southeast Utah: Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

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Inside:

- › **Carbon:** Unemployment held steady between 4 and 5 percent in 2008
- › **Emery:** In 2008, the population expanded 1.4 percent
- › **Grand:** Job increases in hospitality sector continues
- › **San Juan:** 2008 with above average population growth of 2.7 percent

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Population – a Regional Strength

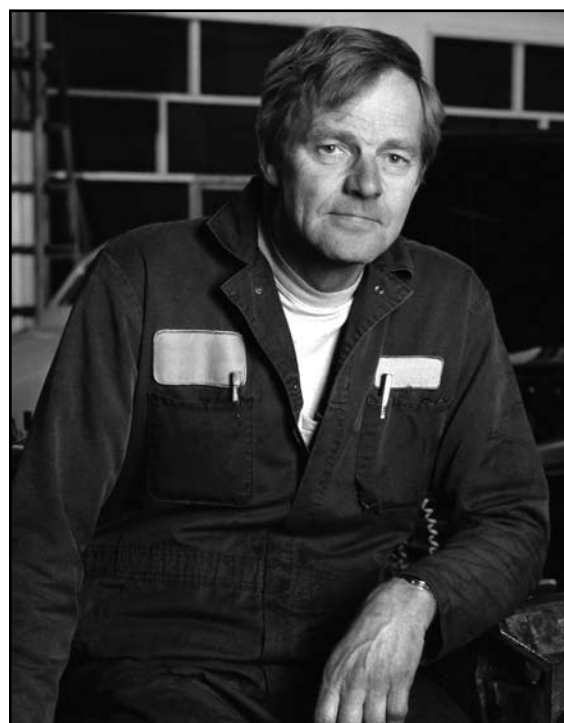
Currently the labor market and economic situation in the nation, in the state of Utah, and to a lesser extent in the Southeastern Region (Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan Counties) are currently in recession. Home prices and construction continue to fall, credit is tight for consumers and industry, retail sales are down, more businesses are reducing jobs than are hiring, and unemployment is rising. Consumer confidence is very low and business has cut back on investments. It is not possible to know precisely when this economic contraction will end and economic

growth will resume. Yet, there are characteristics of the Southeastern Region and the state as a whole that position this area for the expansion that will come.

Utah workers are known to be productive with a strong work ethic, are on average the youngest in the nation, and value education and training. Utah fosters a favorable business environment that includes low business taxes, pro-business regulation, and low energy prices. Workers and businesses benefit from the vast recreation and cultural opportunities and amenities found within the state.

One important quality found within most Utah regions that has supported economic health throughout the state's history is population growth.

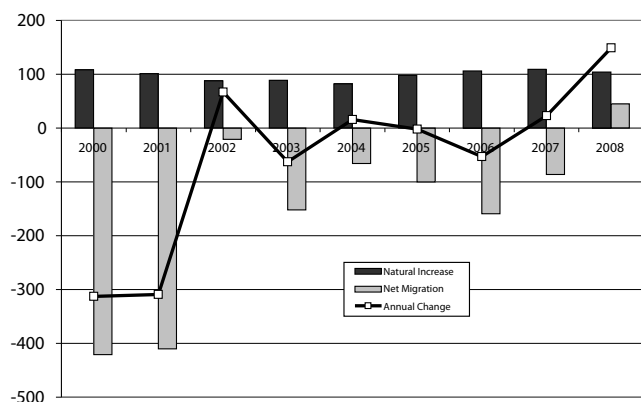
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Population (continued)

**Annual Change in Emery County Population:
July 1st Estimate**

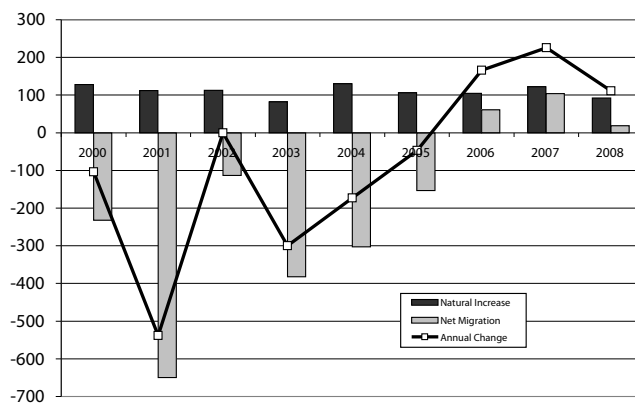


According to the Utah Population Estimates Committee, the Southeastern Region's population reached 54,983 on July 1st, 2008, an increase of 860 above the population estimate one year ago. This year-over gain of 1.6 percent was the best growth in annual population since 1996.

Annual changes in population are measured as mid-year estimates as of July 1st and are comprised of two components: natural increase and net migration. In 2008, there were 793 births in the twelve months prior to July 1st in the Southeastern Region, 1.1 percent above 2007. Deaths in the area were 416. The resulting natural increase, births minus deaths, was 377 persons. This is a little below the average natural increase over the past eight years of 395.

Net migration, the difference between the number of people moving into the region (in-migration) minus the number of people moving out of the area (out-migration) for the twelve months prior to July 1st, is the other component of annual population change. For 2008, net migration was a positive 483 with that many more people moving into the region than the number of people leaving the area. This is the highest number of people moving into the area since 1996.

**Annual Change in Carbon County Population:
July 1st Estimate**



From 2000 to 2008, the population of the Southeastern Region has increased by 908, or growth of 1.7 percent from 54,075 in 2000 to 54,983 in 2008. Over this eight-year period, there have been 6,286 births and 3,123 deaths—resulting in natural increase of 3,163. Since 2008, more people have moved out of the southeastern counties than have moved in with a total net out-migration of 2,255.

Carbon County

The population of Carbon County decreased 2.7 percent from July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008. In 2000 there were 20,396 residents, by 2008 there were 19,841—a reduction of 555. Natural increase was 862 (2,439 births minus 1,577 deaths) over eight years. Total net out-migration was 1,417. In the last eight years Carbon County has averaged 0.3 percent decline in population each year.

In 2008, the population expanded by 0.6 percent. Natural increase for 2008 was 92 while there was net in-migration of 19 and a total change in population of 111 more residents.

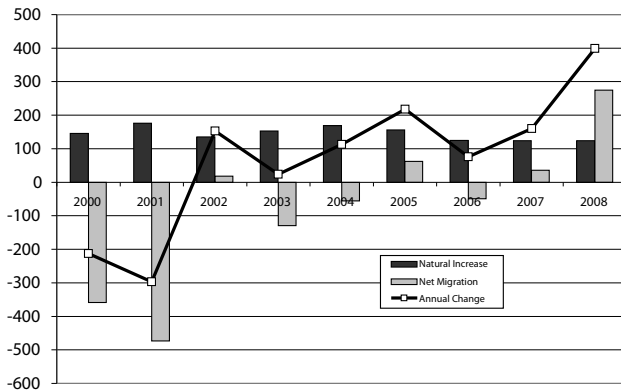
Emery County

The population of Emery County decreased 1.6 percent from July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008. In 2000 there were

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Population (continued)

**Annual Change in San Juan County Population:
July 1st Estimate**



10,782 residents, by 2008 there were 10,610—a reduction of 172. Natural increase was 777 (1,389 births minus 612 deaths) over eight years. Total net out-migration was 949. In the last eight years Emery County has averaged 0.2 percent decline in population each year.

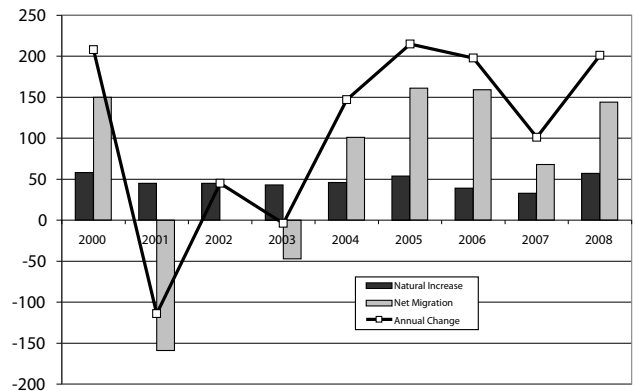
In 2008, the population expanded by 1.4 percent. Natural increase for 2008 was 104 while there was net in-migration of 45 and a total change in population of 149 more residents.

Grand County

The Grand County population grew by 9.2 percent from July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008. In 2000 there were 8,537 residents, growing by 789 to reach 9,326 by 2008. Natural increase was 362 (836 births minus 474 deaths) over eight years. Total net in-migration was 427. In the last eight years, Grand County has averaged 1.1 percent growth each year.

2008 was above average with an increase of 2.2 percent. Natural increase for 2008 was 57 while there was net in-migration of 144 and a total change in population of 201 more residents.

**Annual Change in Grand County Population:
July 1st Estimate**



San Juan County

The San Juan County population grew by 5.9 percent from July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008. In 2000 there were 14,360 residents, growing by 846 to reach 15,206 by 2008. Natural increase was 1,162 (1,622 births minus 460 deaths) over eight years. Total net out-migration was 316. In the last eight years, San Juan County has averaged 0.7 percent growth each year.

2008 was above average with an increase of 2.7 percent. Natural increase for 2008 was 124 while there was net in-migration of 275 and a total change in population of 399 more residents.

The Southeastern Region, and Utah as a whole, have a naturally increasing population. Demographically these regions are younger (with women having higher fertility rates than the national average), households on average are larger, and residents survive to older ages. Rural counties, like those of southeastern Utah, tend to lose some of each generation to the larger metropolitan areas that have a wider array of industries and relatively more diverse opportunities. Even so, the positive natural population growth supports greater economic growth in the Southeastern Region across the decades. **WFN**

County News

Carbon County:

Employment surged in the county as unemployment held steady during the third quarter of 2008. Compared to last year, mining saw a larger increase from about 750 jobs in September of 2007 to over 1,400 for the same month in 2008, though the low number in 2007 was related to the closure of the Crandall Canyon mine. Unemployment held steady at 4 to 5 percent throughout 2008. December 2008's rate was 4.6 percent. Also adding jobs were construction, business services, and healthcare. Building had mixed activity as the number of dwelling units permitted dropped by 48 percent (third quarter) but the total valuation of construction was on the positive side, but just barely, increasing 0.2 percent. The difference was that nonresidential building was up over the same period last year. Spending during third quarter was down, but by only 2.4 percent. Economic activity in the county remains positive, but not by much, with economic indicators showing mixed reports.

Emery County

The unemployment rate for December 2008 was 3.7 percent, which hasn't changed significantly through 2008. Job losses of about 200 were experienced between the third quarter of 2007 and third quarter of 2008. Mining dropped about 180 positions and business services was off 80 jobs. Government and construction were the only growing sectors, with each adding about 70 to 80 jobs. New dwelling permit construction activity was down by 9 percent during third quarter 2008. Total valuation of construction was off by 25 percent. These declines are significant but not as high as the declines in other counties. Consumers cut back on their spending with a drop of some 13 percent from third quarter of 2007. The county is feeling the effects of the national, state, and local economic slowdown.

Grand County:

Job growth was positive as about 80 new positions were created during third quarter 2008 over third quarter 2007. Job increases were felt in the retail trade and hospitality sectors along with government. Real estate dropped about 80 positions from payrolls. Unemployment crept up to 6.7 percent in December 2008, up by nearly a full point from the 5.8 percent a year ago. Building activity during third quarter declined significantly in both permitted construction and in total valuation. Both dropped about 60 percent from a year ago. Spending in the county was down, but only slightly from third quarter last year (2007). The economy in Grand County is slowing and the indicators point to more of the same.

San Juan County:

The economy in the county held steady during third quarter 2008. Job growth was tepid with only about 15 new jobs, a growth rate of 0.4 percent. Unemployment was up significantly to 7.1 percent (December 2008). Job growth was positive in mining but fell in the construction and manufacturing sectors. Business services added 40 jobs with the accommodations sectors up 230 jobs. Construction activity was down and overall valuation off by 11 percent. Consumers curtailed their spending in third quarter by 18.7 percent. This is significant because this was the busy season. Even with job growth positive, the county is feeling the effects of the national economic decline. **WFN**

For more employment information about your county go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/countyinfo>.

What's Up?

The state trust lands agency heard a presentation from a California power company representative outlining a proposed \$2.5 billion "clean-coal" power plant on federal land near Green River. Southern California Edison is also proposing leasing state-owned land nearby for a carbon waste storage operation tied to the energy development plan. Revenues generated by that lease would go into the coffers of Utah schools. The power company is currently seeking a \$200 million Department of Energy grant to begin developing the 500 megawatt plant that it says will utilize new technologies to greatly reduce emissions, including a process that captures carbon before the coal is burned. Under the company's proposal, the captured carbon dioxide would be piped to a nearby sequestration facility that would pump the gas into underground saltwater aquifers.

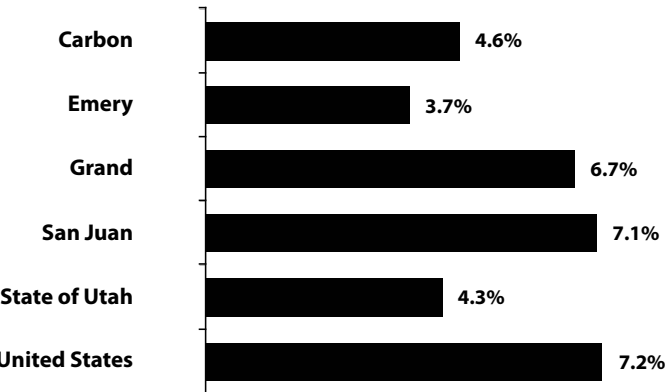
— *Deseret News*

Emery County has secured rights to more than 2,500 acres of state trust lands for an industrial park that is a possible site for Utah's first nuclear power plant. Transition Power Development chief executive Aaron Tilton says he's looking at several possible sites for a nuclear power plant, including Emery County. Mike McCandless, Emery County economic development director, says Mancos Resources Inc. of British Columbia is his strongest prospect for a tenant at the 2,547-acre industrial park. Mancos would build a uranium mill. McCandless says the industrial park also could draw a power plant, an oil refinery and manufacturing plants.

— *Deseret News*

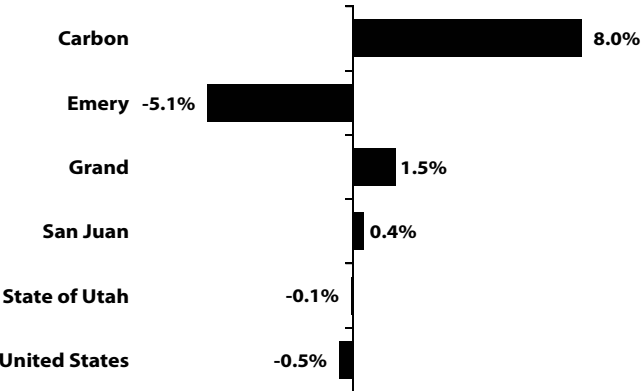


**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
December 2008**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs
September 2007 to September 2008**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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